

Section of Open Session: Farm to Cafeteria Connections Listerv

- Smaller Co-ops making group buys
- What resources do people want in the network?
- Who specifically should be contacted about initiating purchase of local food for schools?
 - County contacts for Farm to Cafeteria Connections Network
- Townsend Elementary implemented salad bars, the choices have drastically reduced food waste.
- Schools contacting farmers to ask for specific products, farmer co-ops to satisfy order needs
- Contact list for vendors and buyers, maps of Farm to Cafeteria
- Good relationships-suppliers and distributors set up by network
- Need for a summit/meeting for all growers and buyers
- Virtual farmers market, truck drivers, farmers, buyers, broker
- “Food hub” vs Craigslist-type posting site—would farmers be willing to pay fee to use service?
- Institutions need specific products, farmers need processors, difficult to make profitable
 - Processors might need to shoulder cost of specialized equipment, schools and farmers can’t afford
 - Farm to institutions manual resources for those interested
 - Tricia Suxton – USDA is a good resource for procurement/hubs, etc.